work is taken up, petitions and counter petitions come up complaining about the alignment. We have to look into all these things. The delay is caused on account of that. Enquiring into petition means at least one month's delay. That is the reason why this delay has taken place. Our people have made it a point to resort to petitions always. However, we will hasten this.

FURNITURE AND OTHER ARTICLES—PURCHASED FROM MR. R. C. BRISTOW

186. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the furniture and other articles of household use belonging to Mr. Bristow, Harbour Officer, purchased by the Government;

(*b*) if so, what is the amount spent on that account; please state the various articles and their prices ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement containing the information is placed on the Table of the House. The amount shown in column "cost" is the actual value of the articles, but only two-thirds of the value of the articles have been paid.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli) :* In view of the fact that Mr. Iyyunni is absent and because we want to ask a few questions with regard to this important matter, though there is no authorisation I request the President to allow us the privilege of a few supplementaries.

Mr. President: Has it been permitted in any previous instance?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. With the consent of the Chair.

Mr. President: Then you may ask.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether in the case of Government they have escaped paying the balance of one-third.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We made only a statement of fact, just to let you know how much we have paid.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether you have got to pay the other one-third also?

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Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We have paid only two-thirds.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി: ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും സെക്കണ്ട് ഹാൻറ് സാധനം വാങ്ങുവാൻ കാരണമെന്താണെന്നു പറയാമോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: സെക്കണ്ട് ഹാൻറാണെങ്കിലും വളരെ നല്ല സാധനമായതുകൊണ്ടാണു വാങ്ങിയതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി: സെക്കണ്ട് ഹാൻറ പുതിയതുപോലെ നന്നായിരിക്കുമോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: സെക്കണ്ട് ഹാൻറാണെന്നേയുള്ളു. സാധനം വളരെ നല്ലതാണു്. എന്നതന്നെയല്ല ആദായത്തിനു കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്തു. അതു കൊണ്ടാണു വാങ്ങിയതു്.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether it was at the instance of the seller that Government purchased these articles?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There was a request from Mr. Bristow also. At the same time we wanted some good articles of furniture.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will the Government consider such requests from officers who are leaving the State?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That question does not arise.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether there was any previous instance where such second-hand furniture has been purchased by Government?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* If I remember correct, I think, when the Diwan Mr. Herbert left the State his articles of furniture have also been purchased.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I want to know whether it is a fact.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know how the actual value of the furniture was arrived at?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know definitely whether the furniture of Mr. Herbert was purchased?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I am sorry, I misunderstood the matter. The furniture of Mr. Herbert has not been purchased.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* The Joint Secretary in his answer said that there was a request from Mr. Bristow also.

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May I know whether he made a request to us or we made a request to him?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* He also made a request. We were in need of good articles of furniture and the offer from him came at an opportune moment.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Then may I know what was the significance of the Joint Secretary's answer when he said that there was a request from Mr. Bristow also?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I put the word "also" because we wanted the furniture also.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Therefore, are we to understand that you made an offer first?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No, Sir.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, how was the actual cost of the furniture ascertained? Am I to take it that his statement was relied upon?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes, Sir, we relied upon his statement.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether any depreciation was made in the value of the articles?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That is why we have submitted that the amount paid is only two-thirds of the actual cost.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know for how many years the furniture has been used by Mr. Bristow?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I am not aware of that. But I can submit that they were all in a good condition.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുഞ്ഞൻകുട്ടി: ഈ സാമാനങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്രകൊല്ലത്തെ പഴക്കമുണ്ട്?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: കുറച്ചു പഴക്കമുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുഞ്ഞൻകുട്ടി: സായ്പന്മാരുടെ സെക്കണ്ട് ഹാൻഡ് സാമാനങ്ങളെ വാങ്ങുകയുള്ളു എന്നു വല്ല നിശ്ചയവുമുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: അങ്ങിനെ നിശ്ചയമൊന്നുമില്ല.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether Government have scrutinised the list of articles as to their need before there were actually purchased?

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Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They have been scrutinised generally. They are necessary according to our requirements.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* In the list placed on the Council Table so many articles which are unnecessary for anybody in the world are seen included.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* What are those articles?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I see very curious names here in the list.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, item No. 50 in the list is prayer mat which the Government purchased for about Rs. 20 *(Laughter)*.

മിസ്റ്റർ പുത്തൂർ അച്യുതമേനോൻ: മിസ്റ്റർ ബ്രിസ്റ്റോവിന്റെ സാമാനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതുവരെ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നടന്നുപോയില്ലേ?

Mr. President: How can that question arise? We are now upon a single purchase.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* I say there was no necessity for purchasing this prayer mat.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know for what purpose is the prayer mat used now? This is found to cost Rs. 20.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That is kept very safely in the Ram Mohan Palace to be used by some visitor who may require it for his prayers.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it the consideration of need or the consideration of profit that weighed with the Government in purchasing these articles?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I have already explained, Sir, that we were in need of these articles of furniture and at the same time there was a request from Mr. Bristow also. We wanted to render him some service.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* If it is only to oblige Mr. Bristow, say that plainly. We are satisfied.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether any enquiry has been made as to how long these articles of furniture have been used by Mr. Bristow?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The articles were all examined and they were found to be generally satisfactory.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know for how many years they were using these articles ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We have not examined that.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know what exactly is the necessity to purchase these articles ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* For the purpose of furnishing our Palaces and other buildings.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know which Palace ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Ram Mohan Palace.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Was not the furnishing of the Ram Mohan Palace complete by last year ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No, Sir. Even now it is not.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. വി. ഇയ്യു: നമസ്കാരപ്പായ ഇല്ലാതിരുന്നാലും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടതി ഥികളായിവന്നാ സഹരുള്ളവാനൊ ചട്ടാരി നവാബൊ നമസ്കരിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ട ള്ളതായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു് അറിവു കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി റാഫേൽ: അങ്ങിനെ ഒന്നും കിട്ടീട്ടില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ആർ. വിശ്വംഭരൻ: മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങൾക്കു മാത്രമാണോ ഈ നമ സ്കാരപ്പായയുടെ ഉപയോഗം ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: അല്ല. നമസ്കാരം നമുക്കും ആവാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യുണ്ണി: ഇവിടെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള അതിഥികളാരെങ്കിലും Prayer mat വേണമെന്നു് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: ആവശ്യം വന്നെങ്കിലൊ എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു വാങ്ങിച്ചതാണു്.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the total amount paid for these articles ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* About Rs. 3,000.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether there was no dining table in the Ram Mohan Palace before this was purchased ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There were dining tables there, but they were not sufficient for our purpose.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know what exactly is the criterion of sufficiency as far as Ram Mohan Palace is concerned ?

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Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: That depends upon the number of people who have got to be entertained at dinners.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യുണ്ണി : എത്ര രൂപാ ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരും, അതു മുള്ളായിട്ടു ഫർണീഷ് ചെയ്യണമെങ്കിൽ ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: I want notice.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know whether any person bigger than His Excellency the Viceroy is expected there as guest ?

Mr. President : I do not want to deny the Hon'ble Member's satisfaction of pursuing the furniture *(Laughter)*.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know, how exactly the need of the Government and the departure of Mr. Bristow synchronised ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I will explain the position, Sir. Mr. Bristow was going away. He made a request to the Government that if the Government are in need of the furniture it will be a matter of great help to him to hand over this furniture for a reduced price. The Government also wanted some furniture and thought that an officer who has been serving for more than 20 years in the Harbour making a request like this is not unreasonable, and therefore just to help him these things were purchased by the Government. I think that is what exactly took place.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur)*: But there was some ingenuity in the words of the Joint Secretary, when he used "also".

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: There was no ingenuity.

CENTRAL JAIL—NUMBER OF CELLS AND PRISONERS

187. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of cells for prisoners in the Central Jail;

(*b*) the number of prisoners at present;

(*c*) the maximum number of persons put in a cell constructed for one person ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) 133 cells, excluding the Hospital, Quarantine and Civil Blocks.

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